

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (new): A videophone sign language interpretation assistance device used by a deaf-mute person when the deaf-mute person remotely obtains sign language interpretation by a sign language interpreter in a conversation with a non-deaf-mute person by using a videophone, said videophone sign language interpretation assistance device comprising:

display means fixed on the head of a deaf-mute person for displaying a video of a sign language interpreter received by a videophone terminal in front of the eyes of the deaf-mute person while enabling the deaf-mute person to view the outer world including the expression of the conversation partner;

hand imaging means fixed at the waist of said deaf-mute person for capturing images of the hands of the deaf-mute person to acquire a sign language video;

first communications means for receiving a video signal from said videophone terminal, supplying the video signal to said display means and transmitting a video signal acquired by said hand imaging means to said videophone terminal;

audio input/output means for non-deaf-mute person for inputting/outputting the voice of a non-deaf-mute person; and

second communications means for receiving an audio signal from said videophone terminal, supplying the audio signal to said non-deaf-mute person audio

input/output means and transmitting an audio signal acquired by said non-deaf-mute person audio input/output means to said videophone terminal; wherein

the deaf-mute person obtains sign language interpretation by a sign language interpreter while freely changing his/her sight line, orientation or position by using said display device and said hand imaging means and such that the non-deaf-mute person can obtain voice translation by the sign language interpreter by using said audio input/output means.

Claim 11 (new): The videophone sign language interpretation assistance device according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said first communications means and said second communications means includes radio communications means for performing radio communications with said videophone terminal such that both of the deaf-mute person and the non-deaf-mute person obtain sign language interpretation by a sign language interpreter while traveling freely.

Claim 12 (new): A sign language interpretation system for providing sign language interpretation in a conversation between a deaf-mute person and a non-deaf-mute person where the videophone sign language interpretation assistance device according to claim 10 is connected to the videophone terminal of the deaf-mute person and the videophone terminal of said deaf-mute person and the videophone terminal of a sign language interpreter are interconnected, wherein said sign language interpretation system comprises terminal connection means including a sign language interpreter registration table in which the terminal number of the videophone terminal used by a

sign language interpreter is registered, said terminal connection means including a function to accept a call from the videophone terminal of a deaf-mute person, a function to extract the terminal number of the videophone terminal of a sign language interpreter from the sign language interpreter registration table, and a function to call the videophone terminal of the sign language interpreter by using the extracted terminal number of the sign language interpreter, and such that connection from the videophone terminal of the deaf-mute person to said terminal connection means automatically connects to the videophone terminal of the sign language interpreter.

Claim 13 (new): The sign language interpretation system according claim 12, wherein selection information for selecting a sign language interpreter is registered in said sign language interpreter registration table;

said terminal connection means includes a function to acquire the conditions for selecting a sign language interpreter from the videophone terminal of a deaf-mute person and a function to extract the terminal number of a sign language interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions for the sign language interpreter from said sign language interpreter registration table; and

a desired sign language interpreter can be selected from the videophone terminal of the deaf-mute person.

Claim 14 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 12, wherein said sign language interpretation system includes a term registration table for registering a term used during sign language interpretation; and

said terminal connection means includes a function to register a term in said term registration table via operation from a videophone terminal, a feature to select a term to be used from the terms registered in said term registration table by way of operation from a videophone terminal, a function to generate a telop of said selected term, and a function to synthesize said generated telop onto a video to be transmitted to the opponent party so as to display, in a telop, on the videophone terminal of the opponent party a term that is difficult to explain with sign language during sign language interpretation or a word that is difficult to pronounce.